

A detailed illustration of a Nativity scene. Mary and Joseph are seated in the center, with the infant Jesus in a manger. Shepherds and three wise men are present, along with a donkey and an ox. The scene is lit by warm, golden light from lanterns and candles.

HF Happenings

No 485

South African Radio League 1925 - 2011 Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union Region 1
Subscribe to HF Happenings via HF_Happenings-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HF_Happenings/

Summer Solstice at 05:30 UTC on Thursday 22 December 2011

My Family and I wish you and your family a very Blessed Christmas. To our Jewish readers we wish Happy Hanukkah. Happy holidays and if you take to the roads, please drive safely. Enjoy this time with your family.

Do You Just Belong?

Are you an Active amateur, the kind that would be missed?
Or are you just contented, that your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the crowd?
Or do you stay at home, and crab both long and loud?

Is your input ever acted on, to make it better tick?
Or leave the decisions to just a few, and talk about the clique?
Do you take an active part, to help all hams along?
Or are you satisfied, to be the kind that just belongs?

There are lots of things that happen, that mean success if done.
It can be easily accomplished, with the help of everyone.
So attend the meetings regularly, and be heard with voice and heart.
Do not be just a member, but take an active part.

Carefully think this over fellow ham, are we right or wrong?
Are YOU an active member? or **"DO YOU JUST BELONG?"**.

Tom, VE3TSA
Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club

Be Surprised by the World of Amateur Radio





Proposed Amateur Mf Allocation Receives A Boost

The proposal to allocate a part of the medium frequency band to the amateur service at the World Radio Conference in 2012 received a boost this week with the release of the Asia-Pacific Common Proposals that were developed at the fifth Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-12.

During this meeting, the various nations of the Asia-Pacific region discussed many of issues that will be addressed at WRC12 and attempted to come to a regional consensus position.

The proposal of interest to the amateur service is "to consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415 - 526,5 kHz to the amateur service on a secondary basis, taking into account the need to protect existing services" and this proposal was supported by a comfortable margin of Asia-Pacific administrations responding to the voting request. The successful development of a regional position supporting an amateur MF allocation increases the chances that the proposal will be accepted at WRC-12.

The amateur radio service is represented at the APT meetings by delegates from Region 3 of the International Amateur Radio Union and by members of national amateur radio organisations who are part of delegations from each national administration.

POTA - Parks on the Air

Our country has many nature reserves and game reserves dotted across the provinces. Moreover, a destination for many of us during holidays and over weekends. Pierre, ZS6A, come up with the idea of Parks on the Air, a scheme to activate the various nature reserves and game parks via amateur radio. Pierre's wife created a list of 274 parks on a MS Excel spreadsheet. I found one duplicate and one park I cannot determine the grid square(s). I also found the Caledon NR is in the southeastern Free State and just outside the town of Caledon in the Western Cape; also, the Formosa NR is in the southern Cape and just outside Escourt in KwaZulu Natal. So I added them to the list.

I have added a column to the list and entered the grid squares (ZS-WAGS) of these parks. There are parks in 64 of the 83 grid squares; 228 of these parks do not cross a grid border, 44 parks lay across two grids, 2 parks lay across 3 grids and 3 parks lay across 4 grids. The Grid with the most parks - KG55 with 20 followed by KG40 with 19!

I suppose one could go and add the Summits in each grid block to the list as well. Therefore, if you drive around you could activate a ZS-WAGS, POTA and SOTA and maybe even IOTA!

The POTA list can be downloaded from the Files section of the HF Happenings web site at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HF_Happenings/, it can also be requested from Dennis, ZS4BS.

December

2 to 4 - ARRL 160 metre contest
9 Schools close
10 to 11 - ARRL 10 metre contest
16 Day of Reconciliation
18 Stew Perry Top Band Challenge
22 05:30 UTC Summer Solstice
25 Christmas Day
26 Family Day, DARC Christmas Contest
27 Public holiday
31 end of 2011 CQ DX Marathon

January 2012

1 New Years Day; start of the 2012 CQ Marathon
2 Public Holiday
11 Coastal schools open
18 Inland schools open
20 - 22 PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest
25 SARL 80 metre Club Contest
28 Summer QRP Contest





UBA International Prefix Hunt 2012

This is not a contest in usual sense but a competition, which runs over the whole year and enables you to measure your achievements in prefix chasing. Even if you are not a tester, you can easily participate because every QSO you make on every HF band counts for the competition.

Dates: from 00:00 UTC 1 January 2012 until 23:59 UTC 31 December 2012

Bands: All HF bands - 160, 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 m

Categories and modes: Single Operator only (SWL's are also allowed to participate)

Mixed Mode; Phone - SSB, AM, FM; CW; Digital Modes - RTTY, PSK, etc...

Everybody will be in Mixed Mode. Once you made a QSO in the other modes the program will automatic calculate the score for the other categories.

Points, Multipliers and Final score

Every different prefix counts 1 point on each band

Every different prefix counts once as a multiplier

The sum off all prefixes on all bands multiplied by the number of different prefixes

Logs: Only electronic logs via email in ADIF format will be accepted. Send your log of the past month before the fifth of the following month to the Competition Manager in order to compile an interim results list. Just export your log of the last month in ADIF. You do not have to calculate your score yourself. Last logs must reach the Competition Manager before 10 January of the following year. Name your file "yourcall-month in figures.adi" (ex: ON7SS-01.ADI for the January log). There is no need to mention a claimed score. All logs will be treated in the strictest confidence and will not be made public. Mail your log to ubaprefixhunt@uba.be

Certificates: Digital competition certificates will be granted to all participants who reach at least 300 different prefixes.

Remarks: We do count on your ham spirit and expect you to log only QSOs, which took actually place. You may enter the competition during the year, in which case your QSOs start counting from the month before you have send your first log (e.g. log send in April, QSOs start counting form 1 March)

Only one call sign may be used during the entire year (/P, /M or /A activations are accepted). Holders of different call signs may enter with more then one call sign. If you change your call sign during the year, you can start over again with that call sign. Your score with the old call sign will be retained.

This is a Single Operator competition. If your call sign is used during a contest in a Multi Operator category, you may not use these QSOs for the competition. For that reason, no participation will be accepted from club stations.

Good luck in Prefix Hunting, Marc, ON7SS

IOTA Annual Update

The deadline for the 2012 Honour Roll and Annual Listing approaches. Applications and updates submitted online on or before 31 January will count for the 2012 tables so long as the supporting cards sent to checkpoints are postmarked no later than that date. Updates postmarked after 31 January will be processed in the normal way but scores will be held over to 2013. Listing in the tables is restricted to those participants who have updated their scores at least once in the previous five years (in the case of the 2012 tables this means since the 2007 annual listings). Please submit online and not on paper - card volumes are now such that paper





applications place an unacceptable burden on checkpoints. The 2012 tables will appear on www.rsgbiota.org in the Spring (northern hemisphere).

Announcing the IOTA 50th Anniversary Marathon, 1 January 2012 - 31 December 2013

The year 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the launch of the Islands on the Air (IOTA) Programme by British SWL Geoff Watts, BRS-3129. As a build-up to our celebrations on this occasion, the RSGB IOTA Manager and Committee announce an exciting activity period in which all licensed amateurs worldwide are invited to participate.

For a two-year period during 2012 and 2013, IOTA chasers are encouraged to contact as many different IOTA groups as possible, and IOTA activators to play their part by operating from as many groups as possible, with special emphasis on the less-frequently activated ones. The points system adopted rewards 'Activators' with higher scores for activating the rarer IOTA groups. Certificates and awards will be available to both 'Chasers' and 'Activators' to reflect attainment of graduated bands of performance together with attractive prizes for top scorers.

The challenge provides a level playing field for everyone, whether they are complete newcomers to IOTA or are holders of the prestigious IOTA 1 000 Islands Trophy, because everyone starts with a clean slate on 1 January 2012.

We hope that all our readers will consider ways in which they can support this event. We would like to see work starting now to schedule activity from as many IOTA groups as possible throughout the 24 months. Let us target 500 groups initially in the hope and expectation of being able to raise this higher as the Marathon progresses.

<http://www.rsgbiota.org/marathon/index.php>

DXpedition of the Year

The poll for the "DXpedition of the Year" as voted by readers of DX World.net can be found at <http://dx-world.net/2011/dx-world-dxpedition-of-the-year-2011/>. The criteria behind the poll is to remind operators of the many notable DXpeditions which occurred during the last 12 months and to vote for their favourites (*five* choices overall). Poll closes on 15 January 2012.

137 kHz German signal received in Alaska

It's nearly 10 years since a signal from Europe has been received in Alaska, but at around 07:00 UTC (17 December) Stefan, DK7FC's, signal was seen using "spectrumlab" software on 136,172 kHz at the remotely operated station of Laurence, KL7UK (G4DMA) near Wasilla Alaska - <http://kl7uk.com>

A full call sign using dual frequency 30 secs per dot CW was seen, a first for this transpolar path having to cross the Auroral twice. Conditions have to be very stable with low geomagnetic and Proton levels, and the path only appears to be open in the deepest part of the winter.

KL7UK is using a 2 turn directional K9AY and R75 receiver remotely controlled by smoking mirrors from Oklahoma. Stefan, DK7FC, has worked tirelessly to reduce his resistive losses and increase his ERP - likely to be only a few Watts.

The last signals were seen in 2003 when G3AQC, G3LDO and DF6NM made the rare path.





SAQ 17,2 kHz transmissions on Christmas Eve

The Swedish VLF transmitter, SAQ, at Grimeton will be transmitting on 17,2 kHz on Christmas Eve and you can listen on the web using the Delft VLF SDR. They will start the transmitter at about 07:30 UTC for tuning for half an hour, then a message will be sent at 08:00 UTC on a frequency of 17,2 kHz CW.

The Varberg Radio Station at Grimeton in southern Sweden (built between 1922 - 24) uses an Alexanderson Alternator and was added to the UNESCO World Heritage list on 2 July 2004.

It is an exceptionally well-preserved monument to early wireless transatlantic communication consisting of the transmitter equipment, including the aerial system of six 127 m high steel towers. Although no longer in regular use, the equipment has been maintained in operating condition.

The 109,9 hectare site comprises buildings housing the original Alexanderson transmitter, including the towers with their antennae, short-wave transmitters with their antennas, and a residential area with staff housing.

The architect Carl Åkerblad designed the main buildings in the neoclassical style and the structural engineer Henrik Kreüger was responsible for the antenna towers, the tallest built structures in Sweden at that time. The site is an outstanding example of the development of telecommunications and is the only surviving example of a major transmitting station based on pre-electronic technology.

QSL reports can be sent via the SM bureau or direct by mail to Alexander - Grimeton Veteranaradios Vaenner, Radiostationen, Grimeton 72, S-432 98 Grimeton, Sweden. E-mail to: info@alexander.n.se

Listen to the VLF band on-line using the Delft web VLF Software Defined Radio (SDR)

<http://websdr.pa3weg.nl/>

A PC soundcard-based SAQ VLF receiver <http://sites.google.com/site/sm6lkm/sagrx>

Using a PC with soundcard as a VLF receiver http://www.qsl.net/dl4yhf/speclab/vlf_rcvr.htm

SAQ Website <http://www.alexander.n.se/>

UNESCO - Varberg Radio Station <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1134>

Alexanderson alternator http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexanderson_alternator

African DX

9X Carl, SM6CPY will be active holiday style as 9XOPY from Rwanda from 24 December to 7 January. QSL via home call, direct or bureau.

Namibia, V5. Martin, V5/DL1ZU, is on a trip in the Caprivi strip from 21 December until 13 January. He is using an IC-706 with Triple Leg and dipole. The main operating modes will be CW plus PSK, RTTY and SSB. QSL via homecall.

Ethiopia. ET3AA - Student License Project Results. The results of the US FCC Amateur Radio License examinations administered for 62 students at the Institute of Technology of the University of Addis Ababa on 10 - 13 December are as follows: 5 Extra Class, 36 General Class and 16 Technician Class Licenses issued; five did not receive a license.

"After we get our logs combined," K3LP says, "we'll upload the results to the Logbook of the World plus post the results as a search function. Thanks to everyone for their understanding regarding the low bands. A future goal will be set to operate from a remote location with





exceptional receive antennas". QSL ET3AA and ET3SID via N200 for 8 - 13 December 2011 only.

Swaziland, 3DA. Operators Phil, G3SWH, and John, G3OLU (also EA5ARC) will be active from the Hawane Resort in western Swaziland between 21 and 29 February 2012. The Hawane Resort has a well equipped station with Elecraft K3 transceivers, ICOM IC2KL amplifiers, an A4S at 24 m and an A3WS at 20 m, a wire 4 square for 40 m and a vertical for 80 m complete with 30 x 20 m long radials. Phil informs OPDX that they will use a single call sign for the DXpedition, which is yet to be allocated. Activity will be on CW only on all bands 80 - 10 metres. There will be no 160, 6 metre or EME activity. Propagation permitting, they plan to have two stations on the air for as many hours every day as is possible. Their main objective is to work as many European, North American and ROTW stations on as many different bands as possible and plan to make at least 15 000 QSOs. QSL via G3SWH, either via the OQRS facility on Phil's Web site, www.g3swh.org.uk, preferred, direct with SAE and adequate return postage, or via the Bureau. Subject to a good Internet connection, there will be an on-line log on Phil's web site and daily uploads to LoTW. Phil will issue an update once the call sign has been issued and he has the web site up and running.

Swaziland, 3DA. Members of the "Fox Charlie DXpedition Team" will be active as 3DAOFC between 4 and 11 April 2012. Activity will be on 80 - 10 metres using SSB, RTTY and PSK. Suggested frequencies are:

SSB - 3 780, 7 063, 14 185, 18 136, 21 290, 24 930 and 28 490 kHz

RTTY - 3 590, 7 040, 10 149, 14 084, 18 104, 21 084, 24 924 and 28 084 kHz

PSK - 7 038, 14 072, 18 102, 21 072, 24 922 and 28 122 kHz

The current list of operators is Filip, ON4AEO, and XYL Kath, ON7BK, Sid, ZS6AYC and XYL Adele, ZR6APT, Gert, ZS6GC, XYL Elna, ZS6EB, Jose, ON4CJK, XYL Steffi, ON3AEO, Lucas, ZS6ACT, and Herman, ZS5LH. QSL via ON4CJK, direct or by the Bureau. A 3DAOFC Web site is currently under construction, www.filipstattooshop.be/Swaziland2012, which will include an online log.

Botswana, A2. Frosty, K5LBU, reports that there is still room for several more operators to join his DXpedition to Botswana in March. Currently, there is Frosty, 1 couple and 1 other operator, and two of them are planning to visit and stay 3 nights and 4 days at the Kruger Park before meeting up in Johannesburg on 16 and 17 March. They will arrive at the Lotsane lodge on the 18th, return to Johannesburg on the 28th and depart on the 29th. The group plans to operate as A25HQ in the CQ WPX Contest while there. If you would like to go, E-mail Frosty at 3da0cf@gmail.com

Malawi. Silent Key - Harry Berry, G0JMU (7Q7HB) died of a massive heart attack on 12 December. He was regularly active from Malawi for a few months every year. "All of his logs are in my possession," his QSL manager, G0IAS, says, "any outstanding cards will be answered".

African Islands

Canary Islands, EF8. Luis, EA8AY, will use the special call sign EF8USA from Tenerife Island (IOTA AF-004, DIE S-012, WLOTA 1276, EAA TF) during the ARRL DX CW Contest (18 and 19 February) as a Single-Op/All-band entry. QSL only via LoTW, visit his Web site at <http://www.ea8ay.com/ef8x>





Madeira Island, CT3, AF-014. Dave, CT3/G3ZXX/p, is working in digital modes, ROS, Olivia and JT65 on 10 - 20 m (emphasis on WARC bands) from Madeira (AF-014) until 25 Dec. QSL only via e-mail. See also QRZ.com.

Comoros, D6. Fabri, IW3SQY, will lead an international team of operators to activate Comoros (IOTA AF-007) sometime in the coming months of 2012. More details are forthcoming.

QSL 3B7C and 3B9C. T32C has prompted renewed interest in getting missing cards from those trips. The following have taken over QSLing responsibilities for the 3B7C (2007) and 3B9C (2004) DXpeditions: 3B7C QSLs should now be sent to MOZAK, Jim Steel, 6 Central Avenue, Shephed, Leics LE12 9HP, United Kingdom and 3B9C QSLs should now be sent to G3RAU, Derek Moffatt, Mill House, Middle Street, Glentworth, Gainsborough, Lincs DN21 5BZ, United Kingdom.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 19 to 26 December 2011.

Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party
00:01 UTC 17 December to 23:59 UTC 1 January

Mode: Any

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Members: Member no, name and state, province or country; Non-Members: Serial no, name and state, province or country; Lighthouse/Lightship: ARHLS no, name and state, province or country

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; 2 additional points per QSO with member; 3 additional points per QSO with lighthouse/lightship

Bonus: x2 multiplier for all points if participant activated a lighthouse/lightship

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 31 January 2012

E-mail logs to: (none)

Mail logs to: Dave Ruch, NF0J, PO Box 20696, Bloomington, MN 55420-0696, USA

Find rules at:

<http://arlhs.com/LCL-2011-guidelines.html>

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
02:00 - 04:00 UTC 19 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Band; All Band

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once; Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 26 December 2011

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at:

<http://www.fqgrp.org/pigrun/autolog.php>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.fqgrp.org/pigrun/>

QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 21 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)





Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 22 December 2011

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 23 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 40 m Only

Classes: Single Op fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST and state, province or country and name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 24 December 2011

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 23 December

Mode: (see rules)

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 25 December 2011

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

RAEM Contest

00:00 - 11:59 UTC 25 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - All Band - low or high;

Single Op - Single Band; Multi-Single; SWL

Exchange: Serial no and latitude (degs only) and longitude (degs only) N=North, S=South, W=West, O=East (e.g. 57N 85O)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 50 points and 1 point for every degree difference in geo location, both latitude and longitude; QSO with Polar station: 100 points additional; QSO with RAEM Memorial Station: 300 points additional

Multipliers: Polar stations multiply total QSO points by 1,1

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 24 January 2012

E-mail logs to: raem@srr.ru

Mail logs to: Alex Pashkov, PO Box 177, Novosibirsk 630032, Russia

Find rules at:

http://raem.srr.ru/contest/raem_2011/rules_eng_2011.php

DARC Christmas Contest

08:30 - 10:59 UTC 26 December

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 80, 40 m

Classes: Single Op Mixed - low or high; Single Op CW - low or high

Max operating hours: 2,5 hours

Max power: HP: >100 W; LP: <=100 W

Exchange: DL: RS(T) and DOK (or Special Station abbreviation); non-DL: RS(T) and QSO no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point

Multipliers: DOK/Special Stations, once per band; Prefixes, once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (total DOK/Special Station mults and total prefix mults)

Submit logs by: 10 January 2012

E-mail logs to: xmas@dxhf.darc.de

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/xmas/en/rules/>





Next Week's Contests

Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party, 00:01 UTC 17 December to 23:59 UTC 1 January
SKCC Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 28 December
QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 28 December
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 28 December; 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 29 December
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint, 01:30 - 03:30 UTC 29 December
QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 30 December
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 30 December
AGB New Year Snowball Contest, 00:00 - 01:00 UTC 1 January
SARTG New Year RTTY Contest, 08:00 - 11:00 UTC 1 January
AGCW Happy New Year Contest, 09:00 - 12:00 UTC 1 January
ARS Spartan Sprint, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 3 January

History This Week

A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW and Dennis, ZS4BS. The week starting Monday 19 December 2011.

597 - England adopted the Julian calendar. In the year 46 BC, Julius Caesar reformed the Roman calendar (25 Dec)
1620 - Mayflower Pilgrims land at Plymouth Rock (21 Dec)
1651 - Jan van Riebeeck departs to the Cape of Good Hope (24 Dec)
1672 - Giovanni Cassini discovers Rhea, a satellite of Saturn (23 Dec)
1686 - Robinson Crusoe leaves his island after 28 years [as per Defoe] (19 Dec)
1741 - Astronomer Anders Celcius introduces the Centigrade temperature scale (25 Dec)
1758 - Halley's comet first sighted by Johann Georg Palitzsch on its return (25 Dec)
1818 - "Silent Night" composed by Franz Joseph Gruber (24 Dec); "Silent Night" sung for the first time (25 Dec)
1834 - Joseph Hansom of London receives a patent for Hansom cabs (23 Dec)
1843 - Charles Dickens publishes "A Christmas Carol" in England (19 Dec)
1871 - Giuseppe Verdi's "Aida" premieres in Cairo at the opening of the Suez Canal (24 Dec)
1880 - Battle at Bronkhorstspuit, Boers beat the British (20 Dec)
1888 - Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh cuts off his left ear (23 Dec)
1889 A bicycle with a back-pedal brake was patented by Daniel Stover and William Hance of Freeport, Ill.
1892 - Phileas Fogg completes around the world trip, according to Jules Verne (20 Dec)
1893 Henry Ford completed his first useful gas motor.
1898 - Pierre and Marie Curie discover Radium (21 Dec)
1899 - The Boers fire a shell into the beleaguered Ladysmith, the shell failed to explode and when opened by the Engineers, was found to contain a Christmas pudding and a note wishing everyone "compliments of the season" (25 Dec)
1901 - At the Battle of Groenkop (Battle of Tweefontein), the Boers under Gen de Wet defeat the British (25 Dec)
1974 The pioneering Altair 8800 microcomputer was first put on sale in the US as a do-it-yourself computer kit, for \$397.





Birthdays for the week

Richard Erskine Frere Leakey, 19 Dec 1944 (*politician, paleoanthropologist and conservationist*)

Édith Piaf, 19 Dec 1915 (*born Édith Giovanna Gassion - French singer and cultural icon*)

Sir Ralph David Richardson, 19 Dec 1902 (*English actor*)

Uri Geller, 20 Dec 1946 (*self-proclaimed psychic*)

Harvey Samuel Firestone, 20 Dec 1868 (*American businessman, and the founder of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, one of the first global makers of automobile tires.*)

Christine Marie "Chris" Evert, 21 Dec 1954 (*former world number 1 professional tennis player*)

Samuel Leroy Jackson, 21 Dec 1948 (*American film and television actor and film producer*)

Frank Vincent Zappa, 21 Dec 1940 (*American composer, singer-songwriter, electric guitarist, record producer and film director*)

Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin, 21 Dec 1878 (*born Iosif Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili, Premier of the Soviet Union*)

Maurice Ernest Gibb, CBE and Robin Gibb, CBE, 22 Dec 1949 (*musicians, singer-songwriters and record producer*)

Giacomo Antonio Domenico Michele Secondo Maria Puccini, 22 Dec 1858 (*Italian composer whose operas, including La Bohème, Tosca, Madama Butterfly, and Turandot*)

Ava Lavinia Gardner, 24 Dec 1922 (*American actress*)

Howard Robard Hughes, Jr., 24 Dec 1905 (*American business magnate, investor, aviator, engineer, film producer, director, and philanthropist*)

Annie Lennox, OBE, 25 Dec 1954 (*Scottish singer-songwriter, political activist and philanthropist*)

Sissy Spacek, 25 Dec 1949 (*American actress and singer*)

Humphrey DeForest Bogart, 25 Dec 1899 (*American actor*)

Robert LeRoy Ripley, 25 Dec 1890 (*American cartoonist, entrepreneur and amateur anthropologist, who created the world famous Ripley's Believe It or Not!*)

Sir Isaac Newton, 25 Dec 1642 (*English physicist, mathematician, astronomer, natural philosopher, alchemist, and theologian*)

Claude Chappe, 25 Dec 1763 (*French engineer who invented the semaphore visual telegraph*)

DX Code of Conduct

I will listen, and listen, and then listen again before calling.

I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.

I will not trust the DX cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.

I will not interfere with the DX station or anyone calling and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSO slot.

I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call.

I will always send my full call sign.

I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will not call continuously.

I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.

I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine.

I will not transmit when the DX station requests geographic areas other than mine.

When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it correctly.

I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.

I will respect my fellow radio amateurs and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.

<http://www.dx-code.org/publications.htm>





Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC and Pete's DX Newsdesk.

Newsletter editors are most welcome to use material from HF Happenings, just remember to acknowledge the source (which could be any one of the names mentioned above). HF Happenings can be provided in MS Word format.

SARL News

Time (UTC / CAT)	Freq (kHz)		Target Area	Language
06:15 / 08:15 *	7 066 / 7 098	From Pretoria /	Southern Africa	Afrikaans
06:30 / 08:30 *	7 066 / 7 098	Port Elizabeth	Southern Africa	English
Various 2 metre and 70 cm repeaters and Echolink country wide				

Amateur Radio Today

Time (UTC / CAT)	Freq (kHz)		Target Area	Language
08:00 - 09:00 /	7 082	From Durban	Southern Africa	English
10:00 - 11:00 *	Various 2 metre and 70 cm repeaters and Echolink country wide			

Amateur Radio Today shortwave broadcast information.

Time (UTC / CAT)	Freq (kHz)	Tx kW	Target Area	Language
08:00 - 09:00 /	7 205	100	Southern Africa	English
10:00 - 11:00 *	17 760	250	East Africa	English
16:30 - 17:30 /	3 230	100	Southern Africa	English
18:30 - 19:30 **				

* Sunday ** Monday

Amateurradio in Aksie

Dorp	Frekwensie	Tyd en dekking
Bloemfontein	145,600 MHz	Maandagaande 20:30 vanaf die Naval Hill herhaler
Kaap	145,700 MHz	Maandagaande 20:30 in die Boland
Pretoria	145,750 MHz	Woensdagaand net na die ZS6MRK bulletin
Pretoria HF	3 680 kHz	Woensdagaand net na die ZS6MRK bulletin
Rustenburg	145,500 MHz	Maandagaande 20:30
Sasolburg	145,600 MHz	Maandagaande 20:00 dekking in die hele Vaaldriehoek

